

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A tube fitting, comprising:

(a) ~~a first fitting component and a second fitting component that are joinable, said first fitting component having an interior bore adapted to receive a conduit end; said bore having and a camming surface at one end thereof,~~

(b) ~~a conduit gripping element; attached to said second fitting component, and~~

(c) ~~second fitting component that is joinable with the first fitting component such that the conduit gripping element is forced into engagement with said camming surface of the first fitting component, wherein the second fitting component defines an interior end surface that is radially outward of the conduit gripping element;~~

(d) ~~a sealant material disposed in the second fitting component that is compressed between the first fitting component and the interior end surface of the second fitting component fitting and that forms a backup seal outward said conduit gripping element upon pull-up of the fitting.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said first fitting component has ~~an~~ ~~a~~ ~~first~~ ~~annular~~ ~~end~~ surface outside said camming surface; ~~said second fitting component has a second annular surface outside said conduit gripping element, and wherein said sealant is disposed on at least one of said first and second annular surfaces~~ ~~annular end surface of the first fitting component and the internal end surface of the second fitting component.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 2 wherein said ~~first and second annular surfaces~~ ~~annular end surface of the first fitting component and the internal end surface of the second fitting component~~ extend generally radially relative to a longitudinal axis of the fitting.

4. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 2 wherein said sealant is squeezed between said annular end surface of the first fitting component and the internal end surface of the second fitting component ~~first and second annular surfaces~~ upon pull-up of the fitting.

5. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said first fitting component is a male threaded nut body and said second fitting component is a female threaded nut body.

6. (Original) The fitting of claim 5 wherein said components comprise metal.

7. (Original) The fitting of claim 6 wherein said metal comprises stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said conduit gripping element is attached to the second fitting component and wherein said interior end surface of said second fitting component ~~comprises a surface that forms part of a trepan within said component, with said sealant being disposed within said trepan~~ is an end surface of a trepan that is defined radially outward of said conduit gripping element.

9. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said conduit gripping element is attached to the second fitting component and is separable from said second fitting component upon pull-up of the fitting.

10. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said conduit end is a tubing end.

11. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 1 wherein said conduit end is a pipe end.

12. (Original) The tube fitting of claim 1 wherein said sealant comprises a soft metal, plastic, elastomer, viscous hydrocarbon or fluorocarbon grease, paste, or film.

13. (Original) The tube fitting of claim 1 wherein said sealant forms a backup seal for said conduit gripping element.

14. (Original) The tube fitting of claim 1 wherein said conduit gripping element extends from said second fitting component in a cantilevered manner.

15. (Original) The tube fitting of claim 1 wherein said sealant is in a liquid carrier suspension.

16. (Currently Amended) A tube fitting, comprising:

(a) ~~a nut and a body that are joinable; said body~~ having an interior bore adapted to receive a conduit end; said bore having a camming surface at one end thereof;

(b) ~~a nut that is joinable with the body, the nut including an attached conduit gripping element wherein the nut defines an interior end surface that is radially outward of the conduit gripping element; attached to said nut; and~~

(c) ~~a sealant material disposed in the fitting and that forms a backup seal outward said conduit gripping element~~ ~~nut that is squeezed between the body and the interior end surface of the nut~~ upon pull-up of the fitting.

17. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 16 wherein said sealant is disposed in a trepan of said nut ~~and wherein said interior end surface of the nut is an end surface of the trepan.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 16 wherein said conduit end comprises a tubing or pipe end.

19. (Currently Amended) The fitting of claim 16 wherein said conduit end comprises stainless steel.

20. (Original) The fitting of claim 16 wherein said conduit gripping element is separable from said nut upon pull-up of the fitting.

21. (Currently Amended) A component of a fitting for gripping and sealing a conduit end, comprising:

- (a) a body nut having an interior surface;
- (b) a gripping element attached to said body nut;
- (c) a trepan with an end surface that is radially outward of the gripping element; and
- (d) a sealant disposed inside said body nut in contact with the trepan end surface.

22. (Cancelled) The component of claim 21 wherein said sealant is disposed in a trepan formed in said body.

23. (Currently Amended) The component of claim 22 21 wherein said sealant is disposed in said trepan as a backup seal outward a gripping element seal area.

24. (Original) The component of claim 21 wherein said sealant comprises a soft metal, plastic, elastomer, viscous hydrocarbon or fluorocarbon grease, paste, or film.

25. (Currently Amended) The component of claim 21 wherein said gripping element is separable from said body fitting component.

26. (Original) The component of claim 21 wherein said sealant is in a liquid carrier suspension.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a seal between a threaded fitting nut, a threaded fitting body, and a tube, wherein said threaded fitting nut further comprises both a trepan and a tube gripping element that engages said tube when said threaded fitting body is pulled up against said threaded fitting nut, comprising:

- (a) depositing a sealant in said trepan of said threaded fitting nut;
- (b) placing said threaded fitting nut around said tube;
- (c) engaging said threaded fitting body with said threaded fitting nut;

(d) tightening said threaded fitting body onto said threaded fitting nut such that said ferrule deforms and embeds itself in said tube and said sealant is partially squeezed ~~out of said~~ between an end wall of the trepan and the fitting body and forms a fluid seal around the nut, body and tube.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said sealant is a soft metal, plastic, elastomer, viscous hydrocarbon or fluorocarbon grease, paste, or film.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said sealant is applied in a liquid carrier suspension to said threaded fitting nut when said nut is the open end up position. tube end;

said female coupling member having a tube gripping device attached thereto;

said tube gripping device separating from said female coupling member during assembly of the fitting to a pulled-up condition.